

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 23 and claim 23 is canceled. No new matter is presented.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-4, 12-17, 19, 21-22 and 24-28 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 12-17, 19, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoai et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,824,948) in view of Fujimaki et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,916,595) and Aoshima et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,838,222).

Claims 3 and 23-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, claim 1 is amended herein by incorporating the subject matter of claim 23, which is not taught or suggested by the cited references. That is, none of Aoai et al, Fujimaki et al and Aoshima et al teaches or suggests a negative-working planographic printing plate precursor that can be recorded by a solid laser or a semiconductor laser capable of radiating actinic ray in an ultraviolet to infrared wavelength region of 300 nm to 1,200 nm, and comprises a support having a recording layer containing a polymerizable composition provided thereon as recited in present claim 1, wherein the support is an aluminum sheet, a surface of which has been roughened. Thus, the present invention is not rendered obvious by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claims 2-4, 12-17, 19, 21-22 and 24-28 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

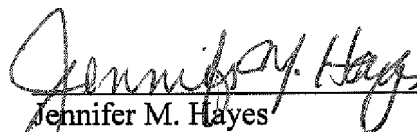
Claim 23 is canceled, thereby rendering the objection as to this claim moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection and objection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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